

# JTIP Handout: Lesson 11 – Interactions with Probation Officers, Prosecutors, Judges and Parents

## PART 2: MEET THE PARENTS / CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS/INFORMATION FOR MOTHER

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*You have been assigned to play the role of mother. Please read these facts and be ready to negotiate with the juvenile defender. Please base your negotiation with the defender only on the information provided below. Those playing the role of defender should not read this fact pattern.*

You are a single mother with three teenage children; Ronald is the middle child. You have become increasingly frustrated with his behavior over the past several months: he stays out late, skips school, talks back to you and in general seems out of control. The theft from the box in the attic is the final straw. You cannot believe that he stole from you and find the amount especially appalling. You are sure it is Ronald because you normally lock the attic, and he is the only child you have sent up there in the last several months. In addition, he has been wearing new clothes lately and has no source of income.

You do not think Ronald has expressed any remorse, and you think he needs to be punished. The prosecutor has explained to you that Ronald can be taken out of your home and sent to a facility where he will have to own up to what he

did. The prosecutor also told you that this would be an opportunity for Ronald to get some counseling and other help. The prosecutor also mentioned that there might be a way to make Ronald pay the stolen money back. This sounds good to you, because you are at your wits' end.

Finally, you are confused by Ronald's recent appearance and behavior. He has been dressing and talking like a girl and has been going to some center that appears to encourage boys to be gay. Your friends have made side comments about Ronald. You are frankly baffled about his new activities at this new church/center (he stopped going to your church a while ago). This subject makes you uncomfortable, and so you will not raise it directly (or even at all if the conversation does not seem to facilitate it), but you will discuss the issue if the attorney brings it up.

Even though you are frustrated and think the prosecutor's approach makes the most sense, you are willing to hear the defense attorney out. You should ask questions that you think a parent in this situation would ask. You can make up facts that would be consistent with the fact pattern.